

BOOST TELEPOST DESPITE ARRESTS

Promoters Undaunted by
Troubles of Sterling Cor-
poration's Officials.

FLOWERY LETTERS SENT

Names of Dr. Parkhurst,
Admiral Sigsbee and
Others Used.

NEW ISSUE IS PLANNED

Stockholders Asked in Circulars
to Approve Sale of Addi-
tional Shares.

The blow dealt to the Sterling De-
benture Company a week ago yester-
day when nine of the officers, trust-
ees, and former officers were arrested
apparently has had no deterring effect
on the promoters. Of course E. W. Shu-
maker, a voting trustee in the company
and superintendent of whatever traffic that
company has over its lines, is out on
\$5,000 bail, charged with using the mails
in a scheme to defraud, but whatever
blame may have attached to his man-
ner in handling the Sterling Deben-
ture Company has nothing to do with Tele-
post.

And if any stigma is brought to the
board of voting trustees by the arrest
of Shumaker, see the other names on
the board. There is Dr. Charles H.
Parkhurst, his name should be enough
to offset Shumaker, especially when it
is backed up by men such as Gen. A.
R. Burnington, H. R. A. Bear, Admiral
Charles D. Sigsbee and the others,
whose names are still on the letter-
heads of Telepost.

Undaunted by the action taken by
the Government against the Sterling
Debenture Company Telepost is again
sending out a flood of literature through-
out the country. Stockholders are re-
ceiving three proposals to be voted upon,
and each has to do with the method of
selling stock yet to be adopted. Of
course the literature lays great stress
upon one plan, which (need it be
printed?) is to issue enough additional
shares to put the company upon a firm
operating basis to take best advantage
of the large flow of business which
will come to it "when its New York
Chicago line is completed."

This is the referendum by which
stockholders have their say in the dis-
posal of stock, the initiative, of course,
having been taken by the Sellers brothers,
H. Lee and R. H., and those who are
with them in trading stock for money.

With the folder, which contains what
the company describes as a history of
Telepost, goes a letter, on the letter-
head, besides the Sellers brothers, Shu-
maker's name has a prominent place.
The letter admits that a new era has
arrived for Telepost.

"The past few months," it says, "have
been marked by a steady growth of
public opinion favorable to the Tele-
post and the consequent removal of one
after another of the obstacles that have
hitherto made progress difficult."

The letter is dated the 17th, some
days before the old Metropolitan Tele-
phone Company, predecessor of the
New York Telephone Company, filed its
suit for a permanent injunction against
the Metropolitan Telephone and Tele-
graph Company, organized to operate
the Telepost, on the ground that the
Telepost company is a "wicked, evil,
fraudulent scheme" to sell bonds of
little or no value to the public.

Unfair means were employed by the
"opposition" to the Telepost, the letter
asserts, the unfair means being set forth
as follows:

Bitter fights for franchises, rights of
way, etc.

The purchase outright of independent
telephone plants about to contract with
the Telepost for wire extensions.

Mysterious daily happenings—ground-
ing or cutting of established lines. Here
are cited several instances where Tele-
post's most important wire to Chicago
was out of order for several days at a
time. Many more days could have
been cited when the New York-Chicago
wire did not work; in fact it has hardly
ever worked.

Columns and pages of half truths
and whole lies in the newspapers and
magazines.

But harrowing as all these experi-
ences were, the directors can look back
on them with a great degree of com-
placency. The investigation into the
money trust, the activities of the Pub-
lic Service Commissions have awakened
people and public opinion has at last
been changed. Any stock which is to
be offered now should be grabbed up
eagerly by the investor, because the
road to be travelled now is a smooth
easy one, according to the Telepost lit-
erature.

These are the three questions offered
to stockholders:

Is it better to go ahead selling stock
at \$10 a share and giving away three,
two or one coupon to the stock in-
surer convertible certificates? Or

To stop giving convertible certificates
with shares of stock? Or

To issue additional shares, with con-
vertibles, to an amount sufficient to put
the Telepost's operating system in the
best possible position to take advan-
tage of the large volume of business
that will come to it "on the completion
of the New York-Chicago line."

A convertible certificate has a face
value equal to the shares sold and is
redeemable out of surplus profits in
excess of the requirements for 10 per
cent. annual dividends, should the
profits ever pass this mark.

The officers say they confidently be-
lieve the last proposal will appeal to
every stockholder as the wise and con-
servative course to pursue. Series A,
carrying three convertibles, will go to
the first applicants, so there should be
a rush from those who like to part with
their money to get it down first, other-
wise they may only get stock from
Series B, which carries two only con-
vertibles. Series C and D carry only one
convertible, so if you miss the first
two, see what you will lose—two nice
clean well printed convertibles, which
will be worth money any time Telepost
earns enough to redeem them.

Stockholders will be grieved to learn
that Telepost is having difficulty in
hiring enough men to rush the work on
the New York-Chicago line. This, of
course, will advance the time when the

line can be put in operation and divi-
dends earned, so if you are a stock-
holder and know some men who need
employment advise the men to write to
the Telepost. Pictures of two trucks,
laden with a few telephone poles, and of
two men putting up a tall pole out in
the country somewhere, show just how
fast the New York-Chicago line is being
constructed.

Benjamin C. Mudge, one of the men
indicted by the Federal Grand Jury for
participation in the alleged stock
swindle carried on by the Sterling De-
benture Corporation, gave himself up to
the Federal authorities yesterday and
was arraigned before United States
Commissioner Shields. He waived ex-
amination and was held in \$5,000 bail.
Mudge is a chemist and is said to be
connected with the Oxford Linen Com-
pany of Brookfield, Mass., one of the
companies exploited by the Sterling De-
benture concern. According to the lit-
erature sent out by the Sterling people
Mudge had invented a process for con-
verting flax straw into linen fibre in the
space of one day.

The post office inspectors raided the
office of the Sterling Deben-
ture Corporation at 153 East Sixteenth street
last Friday and arrested Frank W. Shu-
maker, Samuel E. Findlay, Harry H.
Platt, Sidney Rosenbaum, Elwyn A.
Barron and Wilbur M. Stone. That
night George H. Middlebrook, first pres-
ident of the company, was taken in cus-
tody in Chicago.

The Telepost Company, which has
frequently been alluded to in the col-
umns of The Sun, was at one time a
protégé of the Sterling company, but
about a year ago severed connections
and began a campaign to rehabilitate
its depleted finances under the name
of the Metropolitan Telephone and
Telegraph Company.

NURSEGIRL SETS SIX FIRES IN AN APARTMENT HOUSE

Confesses That She Likes to See
Flames When Suffering
From a Headache.

Grace Trimble, 16 years old, a nurse
girl in the family of Isaac Stern at
114 Kingston avenue, Brooklyn, com-
mitted to Fire Marshal Thomas Brophy
and Detective Van Duzer, they say,
that she started six fires in the apart-
ment house she works in since the first
of September.

The fires were never serious enough
to call the Fire Department, but fright-
ened the four families. Once an awning
was found blazing, and at other times
rubbish in halls and stairways
was set afire.

Yesterday morning a delivery boy
smelled smoke in the house. He told the
Trimble girl, who was playing with
three-year-old Buster Stern. They
found the comforter of a baby carriage
smoldering on the stairs leading from
the first floor to the cellar. Grace
fetched some water and put the fire out.

Tenants notified Fire Headquarters
that there had been another of the mys-
terious fires, and Fire Marshal Brophy
with Detective Van Duzer went there.
On another occasion Grace told the
marshal that she had seen a mysterious
nurse leaving the cellar.

She was questioned more closely yester-
day and finally broke down and con-
fessed that she had set them all. She
said she didn't know why. She suffers
badly from headaches at times, and said
she liked to see fire.

She was arraigned before Magistrate
Nauman in the Gates avenue police
court and remanded to the House of
Good Shepherd until next Tuesday.
Mrs. Stern said Grace had always been
a good girl. The girl's mother lives at
1394 Bergen street.

TEN LASHES FOR WIFE BEATER.

Negro Yells as Baltimore Sheriff Ap-
plies Whip.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 27.—John Hazel, a
negro, today received ten lashes at the
whipping post in the city jail for
beating his wife. As the first lash was
applied Hazel began to yell.

The aged man, who was more than a
few weeks ago, when he lashed Joseph
Walker, another negro wife beater, and
although Hazel seemed to be suffering
much pain, a medical examination
showed that no skin was broken and
no blood drawn by the blows.

AGED MAN RAIDS A STATION.

Takes Captain's Room and Won't
Budge Until Relatives Come.

While Capt. Burfield of the Stagg street
police station, Williamsburg, was reclin-
ing on a couch in a room adjoining his
office, yesterday morning an aged
negro veteran who proved to be John
Huebner, 81 years old, of 108 Centre
street, Evergreen, Borough of Queens,
slipped into the building unobserved and
proceeded to divest himself of his clothing.
When the captain demanded an
explanation the visitor smiled and in-
formed "Capt. Burfield" that he had a
fuss with his relatives and had to be
come to the station house building, where
he had spent his childhood days and in
which structure he believed he was born.

The aged man then made himself com-
fortable in an armchair and declared he
had come to stay. Capt. Burfield decided
to get an ambulance from St. Catherine's
Hospital. The surgeon said there was
nothing the matter with the old man, but
went away. After the visitor had been
in the station house for several hours
Capt. Burfield communicated with the
Glendale station, in which precinct Hueb-
ner lives. He learned that relatives had
been searching for the aged man and
had had a general alarm sent out for him,
believing that he might have perished in
the station house. The captain kept Hueb-
ner until relatives came.

WITNESS MYSTIFIES COURT.

Austin Said to Be Ill, but Physician
Can't Find Him.

Victor Austin, the witness at the trial
of John J. Meyers and Archie L. Wisner,
who accused Charles Humphreys of at-
tempting to buy witnesses for the govern-
ment, returned to the Federal Building
yesterday afternoon after a mysterious
absence of several hours.

Austin is the foreman of the Murchie
club at Nevada City, one of the properties
which the defendant is charged with
having promoted through the purchase
of witnesses. Humphreys, who was
originally indicted with the defendant,
but who turned Government witness,
stated at his investigation.

Yesterday morning United States At-
torney Arnold called for Austin to take
oath and testify concerning his statements.
One of Austin's friends informed the court
that the Murchie foreman was ill and con-
tinued to his room. Attorney Arnold
declined to say that he was unable to find
the witness. A search was instituted,
but Austin returned voluntarily.

NEW YEAR BACCHANALIA NONSENSE, SAYS REGAN

Restaurant Men Indignant Over
Charges Made by Maga-
zine Writer.

"MAD REVELRY" UNKNOWN

Managers Would Not Tolerate
Wanton Orgies Described.
James Churchill Asserts.

The men who operate the biggest and
gayest of New York's restaurants were
asking each other yesterday what he
should write about the National Food
Magazine, describing New Year's eve
celebrations here as shameless orgies
and calling the fun parties in all of the
first class restaurants drunken and
wanton carnivals, where fortunes are
lost and divorces are bred. Up and
down Broadway the best known res-
taurant men in town were discussing
Mr. Rutledge Rutherford's article heatedly
and wondering if they ought not take
some action to vindicate themselves.

James B. Regan, the proprietor of the
Hotel Knickerbocker, Louis Martin,
James Churchill, George Rector and
others who entertain thousands of cele-
brators every New Year's eve were just
about the angriest men in the city when
they read what Mr. Rutherford wrote for
the current issue of the food maga-
zine. They said that Mr. Rutherford
didn't know what he was talking about
and that they would be pleased to en-
lighten him if he would visit them
when 1912 fades into 1913.

Here is Mr. Rutherford's notion of
New Year's eve parties here and in
Chicago in the best restaurants:

Scenes rivaling the Bacchanalia of Rome
will be enacted in the restaurants of New
York and Chicago on the last night of this
month. Men and women with shameful
abandon will plunge headlong into the mad
revelry of the New Year's celebration.
Wine will flow in torrents and the music
that is spent in that night's dissipation
would feed the hungry of the nation.

Already every table in every first class Chi-
cago restaurant has been engaged and on
the evening of December 31 they will be
filled with jewel bedecked women and men
who will revel throughout the night. The
prediction is made with assurance, for we
cannot hope for less than a repetition of
the annual orgies which are becoming
more shameful with each recurrence.

The celebration in Chicago is more dis-
graceful even than in New York. Nearly
everybody in that Christmas City of the
Winds seems to become infected with the
wild spirit of the orgiastic festival.

Dressed in their finest they come—women
in décolleté gowns, out at a little lower than
usual parades, and men in evening clothes
and diamond studs—all resolved to steep
themselves in drink and trust their safety
to the outcome of such a wanton carnival.

Few of the gowns are fit to wear again,
but cost as they may be they are will-
ingly offered as the feminine share of the
Saturnalian sacrifice to which the men
contribute so liberally in ready cash.

The amazing thing is that among these
feminine celebrators are women and girls
whose conduct all the rest of the year is
exemplary, but here, as if this were the
one time and occasion when all the laws
of propriety are suspended, they cast de-
corum to the winds and surrender them-
selves unconditionally to the titillations of
the night.

No class, no caste, no distinction is
there. All are of an equality and every-
thing is permissible. Who can do the
most extravagant and the most indecor-
ous? A man will present a bouquet and
note to some pretty miss with whom he
has been flirting across the way. A young
girl will walk across the floor and kiss a
man she has never before seen. And on
a dare will kiss all the men at a certain
table. And so the gayety goes on with
one antic after another and all the time
the music is playing and there is singing
and jesting and levity on every side.

Finally the clock strikes 12. Then pande-
monium is loosened. Then the saturnalia
begins in earnest. Then the really
drunken revelry begins. Then the women
more daring as the night advances and the
wine more completely deadens all sense
of shame. The orchestra plays and the
drunken revelers in the chorus, some
singing in really beautiful voices, others
drinking their music with groggy yells
and discords. Glasses clink and cham-
pagne bottles pop like the firing of mus-
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When it was decided to liquidate the
company, Mr. Fairchild's object was that
the company would be for him to make
a loan to the company sufficient to buy
up all the outstanding stock, leaving
him the only claimant. This would
give him title to the real estate owned
by the company as security, real estate
on which in some instances it
would be difficult to realize immediately.

This was one reason for Mr. Fairchild's
action, as he felt that if as a result of
liquidation there should be any loss it
should be borne by him and not by the
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loaned by him was could not be learned
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happen somewhere on the East Side,"
said Mr. Martin, "but they could never
happen in one of the best places. Im-
possible!"

That was George Rector's opinion
also.

"He dreamed that story," said Mr.
Rector, referring to Rutherford's
article.

ORGY SHOCKS CHICAGO.

Methodist Ministers Will Carry Their
Protest to the Mayor.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—New Year's eve
revelries in Chicago are to be made the
special target of a number of reform
organizations in the hope that the annual
practice of a Bacchanalian display may
be minimized.

Angered by the announcement of Chief
of Police McWeney that the 1 o'clock
closing ordinance would not be enforced
to the strict letter of the law on New Year's
eve, the Methodist Preachers Association
has threatened to march in a body on the
City Hall on next Monday and make
protest to the police superintendent.

Failing to receive satisfaction at the
office of the police superintendent, the
ministers say they will wait on Mayor
Harrison and insist that he instruct his
police chief to enforce the law.

The activity of the ministers and other
reform organizations comes through the
publicity being given to the fact that ticket
scalpers have secured the choicest seats
in all of the large downtown restaurants
and hotel cafes. Protesters of those who
wished to watch the old year out and the
new year in to the accompaniment of
popping corks and merriment brought
out quick action on the part of the Meth-
odist ministers and other reform organ-
ization officials against the annual
"orgy."

Then Chief McWeney capped the climax
by issuing the order allowing two hours
leeway to the restaurant men and hotel
keepers in closing their places of business
the first morning of the year. In this
connection McWeney says:

"All this hue and cry makes me tired.
The day is a holiday; it is natural that
the people of the city go to the theatre in
the evening and end the day's festivities
with a cold bottle and hot bird while little
Miss 1913 is putting in an appearance."

STATE BANK EXAMINER TO LIQUIDATE BIRKBECK CO.

Charles S. Fairchild, Former
Secretary of Treasury, to
Remain Sole Creditor.

ALBANY, Dec. 27.—The affairs of the
Birkbeck Investment Savings and Loan
Company of America, with its principal
office in New York city, have been
placed in charge of James J. Kennedy,
a State bank examiner, to be liquidated.
Charles S. Fairchild, former Secretary
of the Treasury, has been president of
the company for several years, and under
his direction the institution has been
in process of liquidation with a view to
protecting the shareholders against any
possible loss.

The assets of the company were at
one time about \$750,000, but they dwindled
until in 1909 they were \$248,000
and the liabilities were \$244,500, leaving
a surplus of \$3,500. The surplus in
any of these building companies is small
because the profits are distributed to the
stockholders.

When it was decided to liquidate the
company, Mr. Fairchild's object was that
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should be borne by him and not by the
stockholders. Just what the amount
loaned by him was could not be learned
last night, but it was estimated that
before he bought up outstanding stock
it amounted to about \$150,000.

The appointment of Mr. Kennedy
was merely to wind up the affairs of
the company. Mr. Fairchild's object was
that the company would be for him to make
a loan to the company sufficient to buy
up all the outstanding stock, leaving
him the only claimant. This would
give him title to the real estate owned
by the company as security, real estate
on which in some instances it
would be difficult to realize immediately.

This was one reason for Mr. Fairchild's
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